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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,221	04/09/2004	Roberto A. Franco	302823.01	1314
69316 7590 11/25/2008 MICROSOFT CORPORATION ONE MICROSOFT WAY REDMOND, WA 98052				
EXAMINER				
NUNEZ, JORDANY				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/822,221

Applicant(s)

FRANCO ET AL.

Examiner

Jordany Núñez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/CB/CIC)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafron (7107548) in view of Nwana et al. (US6266805, hereinafter Nwana).

Re claim 1, Shafron discloses a method comprising:

(a) generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with an application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program, see abstract for example), the user interface comprising a plurality of lists of add-ons (figs. 2, 3, 4, el. 40), a status of each listed add-on (by virtue of being displayed, each of the activeX controls or plug-ins inherently have a status of enabled), a disable add-on function, and an enable add-on function (col. 5, l. 5-8 for example) (e.g., controlling program enables/disables activeX controls or plug-ins),

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the add-ons comprising small software programs pluggable into the application program for adding functionality to the application program (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program for example); and

(b) in response to user input, managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controlling using the controlling software program, see abstract for example) by:

(i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons, from the plurality of lists of add-ons (see column 2 lines 38-42 and abstract for example);

(ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, displaying the selected list of add-ons (see column 2 lines 38-42 and abstract for example),

(iii) determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the displayed list of add-ons (see column 3 lines 8-10 for example);

(iv) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the displayed list of add-ons, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on by activating the disable add-on or enable add-on function of the user interface (col. 5, l. 5-8; column 3 lines 8-10 for example) (e.g., controlling program enables/disables activeX controls or plugins);

(v) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on by activating the disable add-on function of the user interface, disabling the add-on (see col. 5, l. 5-8; column 16 lines 12-17 for example); and

(vi) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on by activating the enable add-on function of the user interface, enabling the add-on (see col. 5, l. 5-8; column 3 lines 8-10 for example).

Shafron fails to specifically show: the plurality of lists of add-ons comprising a list of add-ons that have been used by the application program, a list of add-ons that are currently used by the application program, and a list of add-ons that are currently blocked by the application program.

In the same field of invention, Nwana teaches: a visualizer for debugging a community of collaborative software agents. Nwana further teaches: a reports tool providing a global view of problem solving in a society of agents, enabling a user to select a set of agents and requesting that they report the status of all their jobs, generating a GANTT chart showing the decomposition of the job, the allocation of

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its constituent subparts to different agents (plurality of lists of add-ons comprising a list of add-ons), and the relevant states of the job and subparts, the states including completed (e.g., have been used), running (e.g., currently used), and failed (e.g., blocked) (col. 37, l. 48-64).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Shafron and Nwana at the time that the invention was made, to have combined the reports tool providing a global view of problem solving in a society of agents, enabling a user to select a set of agents and requesting that they report the status of all their jobs, generating a GANTT chart showing the decomposition of the job, the allocation of its constituent subparts to different agents, and the relevant states of the job and subparts, the states including completed (e.g., have been used), running (e.g., currently used), and failed of Nwana with the method as taught by Shafron.

One would have been motivated to make such combination because a way to visualize an arrangement for controlling, monitoring or managing a process would have been obtained and desired, as expressly taught by Nwana (column 2, lines 26-33).

Re claim 2, Shafron discloses a method, wherein said add-ons are chosen from the group comprising ActiveX.RTM. controls, browser helper objects, and toolbar extensions (see column 3 line 14 for example).

Re claim 3, Shafron discloses a method, wherein said add-ons include ActiveX.RTM. controls, and wherein the method further comprises updating said ActiveX.RTM. controls, in response to user input (dynamically, see column 1 lines 14-15 and column 2 lines 23-25 for example).

Re claim 4, Shafron discloses a method, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-denied add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises prohibiting the enablement of said administrator-denied add-ons in response to user input (see column 15 lines 43-47 for example).

Re claim 5, Shafron discloses a method, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-approved add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the

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disablement of said administrator-approved add-ons in response to user input (see column 16 lines 12-17 for example).

Re claim 8, Shafron discloses a method, wherein said user interface includes at least one list of add-ons chosen from the group of lists comprising add-ons that have been used by the application program, add-ons currently loaded for use with the application program, and add-ons currently blocked for use with the application program (see column 2 lines 38-42 and column 3 lines 30-37 for example).

Re claim 9, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium comprising: generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with an application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program, see abstract for example); the computer-executable instructions including instructions that, when executed, cause said data processing device to :

(a) generate a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with the application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program, see abstract for example), the user interface comprising a plurality of lists of add-ons (figs. 2, 3, 4, el. 40), a status of each listed add-on (by virtue of being displayed, each of the activeX controls or plug-ins inherently have a status of enabled), a disable add-on function, and an enable add-on function (col. 5, l. 5-8 for example) (e.g., controlling program enables/disables activeX controls or plugins); and

(b) in response to user input, manages the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program, see abstract for example) by:

(i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons from the plurality of lists of add-ons (see column 2 lines 38-42 and abstract for example);

(ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, displaying the selected list of add-ons (see column 2 lines 38-42 and abstract for example);

(iii) determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the displayed list of add-ons (see column 3 lines 8-10 for example);

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(iv) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the displayed list of add-ons, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on by activating the disable add-on or enable add-on function of the user interface (col. 5, l. 5-8; column 3 lines 8-10 for example) (e.g., controlling program enables/disables activeX controls or plugins);

(v) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on by activating the disable add-on function of the user interface, disabling the add-on (see col. 5, l. 5-8; column 16 lines 12-17 for example); and

(vi) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on by activating the enable add-on function of the user interface, enabling the add-on (see col. 5, l. 5-8; column 3 lines 8-10 for example).

Shafron fails to specifically show: the plurality of lists of add-ons comprising a list of add-ons that have been used by the application program, a list of add-ons that are currently used by the application program, and a list of add-ons that are currently blocked by the application program.

In the same field of invention, Nwana teaches: a visualizer for debugging a community of collaborative software agents. Nwana further teaches: a reports tool providing a global view of problem solving in a society of agents, enabling a user to select a set of agents and requesting that they report the status of all their jobs, generating a GANTT chart showing the decomposition of the job, the allocation of its constituent subparts to different agents (plurality of lists of add-ons comprising a list of add-ons), and the relevant states of the job and subparts, the states including completed (e.g., have been used), running (e.g., currently used), and failed (e.g., blocked) (col. 37, l. 48-64).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Shafron and Nwana at the time that the invention was made, to have combined the reports tool providing a global view of problem solving in a society of agents, enabling a user to select a set of agents and requesting that they report the status of all their jobs, generating a GANTT chart showing the decomposition of the job, the allocation of its constituent subparts to different agents, and the relevant states of the job and subparts, the states including completed (e.g., have been used), running (e.g., currently used), and failed of Nwana with the method as taught by Shafron.

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One would have been motivated to make such combination because a way to visualize an arrangement for controlling, monitoring or managing a process would have been obtained and desired, as expressly taught by Nwana (column 2, lines 26-33).

Re claim 10, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein said add-ons are chosen from the group comprising ActiveX.RTM. controls, browser helper objects, and toolbar extensions (see column 3 line 14 for example).

Re claim 11, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein said add-ons include ActiveX.RTM. controls, and wherein the method further comprises updating said ActiveX.RTM. controls, in response to user input (dynamically see column 1 lines 14-15 and column 2 lines 23-25 for example).

Re claim 12, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-denied add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises prohibiting the enablement of said administrator-denied add-ons in response to user input (see column 15 lines 43-47 for example).

Re claim 13, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-approved add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the disablement of said administrator-approved add-ons in response to user input (see column 16 lines 12-17 for example).

Re claim 16, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein said user interface includes at least one list of add-ons chosen from the group of lists comprising add-ons that have been used by the application program, add-ons currently loaded for use with the application program, and add-ons currently blocked for use with the application program (see column 2 lines 38-42 and column 3 lines 30-37 for example).

4. Claims 6, 7, 14, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafron in view of Nwana, further in view of Bloomfield et al. (20020196279).

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Re claim 6, Shafron and Nwana substantially disclose a method as set forth in claim 1 above.

Shafron and Nwana do not explicitly disclose, wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons. However, Bloomfield et al. teaches of wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons (need to authenticate, see paragraph 0038 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons as taught by Bloomfield et al. on the method of Shafron and Nwana in order to provide privacy in information provided in the add-on.

Re claim 7, Shafron and Nwana substantially disclose a method as set forth in claim 1 above.

Shafron and Nwana do not explicitly disclose, wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was last accessed. However, Bloomfield et al. teaches of wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was last accessed (see paragraph 0039 and 0044 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was last accessed as taught by Bloomfield et al. on the method of Shafron and Nwana in order to provide privacy in information provided more information about the add-on.

Re claim 14, Shafron and Nwana substantially disclose a computer-readable storage medium as set forth in claim 9 above. Shafron and Nwana do not explicitly disclose, wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons. However, Bloomfield et al. teaches of wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons (need to authenticate, see paragraph 0038 for example). It

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would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons as taught by Bloomfield et al. on the method of Shafron and Nwana in order to provide privacy in information provided in the add-on.

Re claim 15, Shafron and Nwana substantially disclose a computer-readable storage medium as set forth in claim 9 above. Shafron and Nwana do not explicitly disclose, wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was last accessed. However, Bloomfield et al. teaches of wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was last accessed (see paragraph 0039 and 0044 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was last accessed as taught by Bloomfield et al. on the method of Shafron and Nwana in order to provide privacy in information provided more information about the add-on.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims above have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jordany Núñez whose telephone number is (571)272-2753. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Thursday 9am-7:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Bashore can be reached on (571)272-4088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 2175
11/21/2008

/WILLIAM L. BASHORE/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2175